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REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for examination of this application. This is a response to the office action mailed on November 10, 2010. New claims 20-23 are added. Please consider the following remarks in support of the patentability of the present claims.

Response to Arguments

Jerding does not disclose the claim feature of composing a service group identifier into an audio and/or video stream format, and communicating the configuration information with a service group identifier to set top boxes.

Krause describes a multiplexer system that inserts network ID and transport stream ID parameters into Multi-Program Transport Streams. The set-top extracts the network-id and transport-stream-id parameters from the streams and echo this information back to the multiplex resource manager. See Krause, Abstract, Par 0015, Par 0152.

Krause does not describe a system in which set top boxes communicate a service group ID with a VOD request. The network id and transport stream ids described in Krause are not provided in a VOD request, and they are not service group ids that a VOD server could use to identify a service node for the VOD stream, as the VOD server has no knowledge of these values. Applying a service group identifier in the particular way claimed to enable VOD, from all the many possibilities for designing a broadband VOD system, has not been shown by the Examiner to be an obvious design choice absent the teachings in the Applicant's own disclosure.

The Applicant's detailed traversal of the rejection follows.

35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 6, 7, and 10

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Claims 6, 7, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over US PG Pub 2006/0271973 to Jerding in view of US PG Pub 2005/0198686 to Krause.

Jerding does not alone disclose or render obvious the claim feature of composing a service group identifier into an audio and/or video stream format, and communicating the configuration information with a service group identifier to set top boxes, and the set tops communicating the service group identifier in a VOD request. The issue has become whether newly cited Krause teaches such a feature or renders it obvious in light of Jerding. The Applicant respectfully asserts that it does not.

The network id and transport id parameters in Krause are echoed back to the multiplexer during an autodiscovery process. They are not communicated in a VOD request. They could not and would not work in a VOD request, as the VOD server in Krause has no knowledge of the network id or transport id parameters or how to apply them. It's not obvious from any teaching in Krause or Jerding why or how to use a service group id in a VOD request.

The Applicant respectfully finds a conclusion of obviousness unreasonable and unsupported by the disclosure of Jerding, alone or together with Krause. Neither reference suggests how a service group identifier composed into an A/V stream format by a service node would be used in a VOD application, such as for example set forth in claim 6. In fact, it is only with the benefit of hindsight of the Applicant's own disclosure that such a feature would somehow be evident to one skilled in the art, not due to anything disclosed in Jerding and/or Krause.

Claims 8 and 9

Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Jerding in view of Krause as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of US PG Pub 2007/0130583 to Thiagarajan et al (hereafter referenced as Thiagarajan).

Claims 8 and 9 are patentable for at least the reasons provided, supra.

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Conclusion

The claims are patentable over the cited references, alone an together, for at least the reasons presented in these Remarks. The Applicant respectfully requests that all the claims now be allowed, and prosecution concluded in this matter.

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